

OREGON COURT OF APPEALS

Archbold v. Division of Child Support

348 Or. App. 316 (2026) · No. A183854 · Decided April 8, 2026

SUMMARY

The Oregon Court of Appeals reviewed a circuit court judgment arising from judicial review of a Division of Child Support final order closing a child-support case with a zero balance. The court held that the agency’s determination was supported by substantial evidence and concluded that the circuit court erred in entering a money judgment against the State, along with attorney fees and costs. The judgment was reversed.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Oregon Court of Appeals
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Aoyagi, Presiding Judge; Kamins, Judge; Pagán, Judge
JURISDICTION	Oregon Court of Appeals
DECIDED	April 8, 2026
DOCKET	A183854
DISPOSITION	reversed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The Division of Child Support appealed judgments entered by the Marion County Circuit Court on judicial review of a final DCS order closing a child-support case with a zero balance. The circuit court awarded the petitioner \$30,255.23 plus interest and later awarded attorney fees and costs.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under ORS 183.484(5)(c), the court reviews a final agency order in other than a contested case for substantial evidence, considering the record developed before both the agency and the circuit court as a whole. Substantial evidence exists when the record would permit a reasonable person to make the agency's determination. The appellate court defers to supported subsidiary factual findings of the circuit court but may not substitute the circuit court's or its own determination for the agency's determination.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published and precedential
PARTIES	Division of Child Support v. Loris Archbold, formerly Young

TOPICS

child support judicial review of agency action administrative law standard of review appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

family law administrative law appellate procedure evidence

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether DCS's final order closing Archbold's child-support case with a zero balance was supported by substantial evidence under ORS 183.484.
2. Whether the circuit court exceeded its authority under the Oregon Administrative Procedures Act by awarding Archbold money damages or ancillary monetary relief.
3. Whether the circuit court properly awarded prejudgment interest.
4. Whether the supplemental judgment awarding attorney fees and costs could stand after reversal of the general judgment.

HOLDINGS

1. DCS's final order was supported by substantial evidence because the record showed that all child support owed had been collected and all collected funds had been disbursed to Archbold. DCS was not required to find or prove that Archbold personally received every dollar disbursed before closing the case.
2. The circuit court lacked authority to award Archbold \$30,255.23 because DCS's final order was supported by substantial evidence and there was no evidence that DCS wrongfully took or withheld official action.
3. The prejudgment-interest award was improper because no principal amount was owed.
4. The supplemental judgment awarding attorney fees and costs was reversed because the underlying general judgment was reversed and because reversal of the judgment operates to reverse the related fee and cost award.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Review for substantial evidence is ‘review to determine whether a reasonable person could have made the findings supporting the decision, not whether a reasonable person could have made different findings.’” (329)

“DCS did not need to find that petitioner actually received all the funds in order to close the case, nor did it make any such finding, so the circuit court was mistaken in requiring substantial evidence of actual receipt of all funds to close the case.” (334)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Archbold was entitled to child support from her former husband, Jermaine Phill, under a 1998 Oregon judgment. Phill ultimately paid the full \$183,685.13 owed, with collections continuing through October 2019 because of arrearages; DCS and, for a period, Michigan collected and disbursed the funds through mailed checks and direct

deposits. DCS audited the account and issued a final order closing it with a zero balance. Archbold disputed whether she had personally received all disbursed funds, and the circuit court ultimately awarded her \$30,255.23 despite records showing that the entire amount collected had been disbursed.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

DCS issued a final order in April 2020 determining that Archbold's child-support account had a zero balance after all support owed by her former husband had been collected and disbursed. Archbold sought judicial review under ORS 183.484, asserting that she had not received all collected funds. After three evidentiary hearings, the circuit court entered a money judgment against the State of Oregon and a supplemental judgment for attorney fees and costs. The Oregon Court of Appeals reversed both judgments.

DISPOSITION

reversed

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The general judgment awarding \$30,255.23 plus interest was reversed in its entirety, and the supplemental judgment awarding attorney fees and costs was also reversed. The circuit court should have affirmed DCS's April 2020 final order.

CASES CITED

- Norden v. Water Resources Dept., 329 Or. 641, 647, 649, 996 P.2d 958 (2000)
- Kasliner v. Dept. of Human Services, 330 Or. App. 85, 86, 92, 96, 100, 543 P.3d 131, rev. den., 372 Or. 560 (2024)
- Armstrong v. Asten-Hill Co., 90 Or. App. 200, 206, 752 P.2d 312 (1988)
- Noble v. Oregon Water Resources Dept., 264 Or. App. 110, 124, 330 P.3d 688, rev. den., 356 Or. 516 (2014)
- State v. Wyatt, 331 Or. 335, 341, 15 P.3d 22 (2000)
- Peebles v. Lampert, 345 Or. 209, 220, 191 P.3d 637 (2008)
- State v. Bordeaux, 323 Or. App. 60, 70, 522 P.3d 900, rev. den., 371 Or. 60 (2023)
- State v. Skotland, 372 Or. 319, 329, 549 P.3d 534 (2024)
- Gaylord v. DMV, 283 Or. App. 811, 822, 391 P.3d 900 (2017)
- Burke v. Children's Services Division, 288 Or. 533, 544, 607 P.2d 141 (1980)
- Wallace v. State ex rel. PERB, 245 Or. App. 16, 29-30, 263 P.3d 1020 (2011)
- Burns v. Board of Psychologist Examiners, 116 Or. App. 422, 425, 841 P.2d 680 (1992)
- Cumming v. Nipping, 337 Or. App. 545, 549, 564 P.3d 148 (2025)
- ZRZ Realty v. Beneficial Fire and Casualty Ins., 257 Or. App. 180, 186, 306 P.3d 661, rev. den., 354 Or. 491 (2013)

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